

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 01687 172231Z POSS DUPE
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 OMB-01 L-03 TRSE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2825
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UNCLAS OTTAWA 01687

E.O.11652:N/A
TAGS: ETRN, CA
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE GOC RESTRICTIONS ON FOREIGN OWNERSHIP
AND CONTROL IN TRANSPORT SECTOR

REF: STATE 257970, OCT. 19, 1976; OTTAWA 4246, OCT. 22,
1976.

FOLLOWING ARE OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS OF EXTAFF NOTE
ECT NO. 709, DATED MARCH 14, WHICH WAS RECEIVED BY
THE EMBASSY MARCH 15, IN RESPONSE TO OUR NOTE OF
OCTOBER 20 ON NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION POLICY:

QUOTE: THE EMBASSY WILL APPRECIATE BOTH THE HISTORIC
AND PRESENT IMPORTANCE OF THE CANADIAN TRANSPORTATION
SYSTEM TO THIS COUNTRY'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT. PROPOSAL 1 OF THE POLICY STATEMENT INDICATED
THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO TAKE AN ACTIVE LEAD IN
THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE SYSTEM, SO THAT IT
COULD BE USED AS AN EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENT IN SUPPORT OF
NATIONAL AND REGIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL OBJECTIVES.

PRINCIPLE 3, REFERRING TO PUBLIC AND PRIVATE OWNERSHIP
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OF CARRIERS AND TO CANADIAN CONTROL OF PRIVATE CARRIERS,
IS CONSIDERED TO BE SUPPORTIVE OF THIS GENERAL CONCEPT.
BILL C-33, CURRENTLY BEFORE THE CANADIAN PARLIAMENT,
CONTAINS A SIMILAR STATEMENT UNDER SECTION 1, PARAGRAPH
2E, WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS:

IN THE PROVISION OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES THERE SHOULD

BE OPPORTUNITY FOR BOTH PUBLIC OWNERSHIP AND PRIVATE OWNERSHIP OF CARRIERS AND ALSO FOR NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL CARRIERS WITH CANADIAN CONTROL OF PRIVATELY OWNED CARRIERS BEING AN OBJECTIVE'.

IT IS NOT INTENDED THAT THIS MATTER SHOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF PARTICULAR REGULATORY OR ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION. IT IS RATHER A FORMAL STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE WHICH HAS IN THE PAST AND WILL CONTINUE IN THE FUTURE TO BE CONSIDERED, AMONG OTHER FACTORS, IN DECISIONS RELATING TO THE PLANNING AND OPERATION OF THE CANADIAN TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM. IF IN FUTURE, NEW REGULATORY OR ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES WERE JUDGED NECESSARY WITH RESPECT TO CANADIAN CONTROL OF PRIVATE CARRIERS, THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS WOULD BEAR IN MIND THE EMBASSY'S HOPE THAT CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS TAKE PLACE WHEN SUCH ACTION MIGHT AFFECT UNITED STATES PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN THE CANADIAN TRANSPORT INDUSTRY. THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT WILL, OF COURSE, CONTINUE TO REVIEW INDIVIDUAL PROPOSALS FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN THE TRANSPORTATION FIELD, AS IT DOES IN OTHER AREAS, THROUGH THE FOREIGN INVESTMENT REVIEW AGENCY. UNQUOTE. ENDERS

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